



NEWS RELEASE

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Convicted Killer Sentenced for Kidnapping, Sexual Assault of Woman in Lancaster

A 48-year-old man was sentenced today to 164 years to life in state prison for sexually assaulting and attempting to kill a woman in 2015, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

On Jan. 26, a jury found Leonard Earl Bales of Palmdale guilty of seven counts: attempted, premeditated murder, forcible oral copulation, kidnapping to commit oral copulation, assault with a deadly weapon, assault with intent to commit oral copulation, false imprisonment by violence and making criminal threats.

The jury also found true special allegations of kidnapping, tying and binding, committing great bodily injury and personally using a deadly or dangerous weapon during the commission of the crime.

Deputy District Attorneys Carolyn Yeh and K. Sam Abourched co-prosecuted the case.

On Sept. 26, 2015, the defendant strangled a 35-year-old woman into unconsciousness, kidnapped the victim and transported her to a vacant house in Quartz Hill, according to court testimony.

While at the house, the defendant then proceeded to drag, bind and sexually assault the victim.

After the attack, the woman managed to escape from her bindings and ran naked from the vacant house. The victim eventually found a neighbor who provided shelter and called police, prosecutors added.

In 1998, Bales was convicted of killing a woman and sentenced to 18 years in state prison.

Case MA067063 was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Lancaster Station.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.